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1961

RURAL DISTRICT

OF

CALNE & CHIPPENHAM

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

RURAL DISTRICT

of

CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDING 31st. DECEMBER, 1961.

BRITISH MUSEUM

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C.L. Broomhead, T.D., M.D., B.Ch.,D.P.H.

5, High Street,
Chippenham. Tel: Chippenham 2821.

Also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Calne, Chippenham and Malmesbury, and the Rural District of Malmesbury, Assistant County Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

(b) SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

\+ H.J. Taylor, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

also Surveyor to the Council until 1st Nov 61.

(c) ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS.

\+ S.H. Murray, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.
\+ E.J. Silvester, Cert S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.
\+ A.F.M. Howard, Cert. S.I.B.,A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

\+ Qualifications held by these Officers:-

Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Meat and Other Foods Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
(Note: The Royal Sanitary Institute is now the Royal Society of Health).

(d) SECRETARY TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

S.G.V. Williamson, Cert. R.I.P.H.H.

(e) Committees of the Council which are concerned with matters of Public Health.

Finance, Staff and General Purposes Committee.
Public Health Committee.
Housing Committee.

These Committees meet every four weeks throughout the year and deal with all matters appertaining to public health and housing.

RIBAT MUSEUM

The Chairman & members,
Calne & Chippenham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1961 in accordance with Regulation 15(5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Copies of the Report are required by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, the Ministry of Housing & Local Government and H.M. Inspector of Factories; a copy is also sent to the County Medical Officer of Health.

The Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector Mr. H.J. Taylor, is incorporated and provides detailed information on environmental public health within the Rural District.

I am grateful to Mr. Taylor and the Staff of the Council for their co-operation and assistance during the year under review.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C.L. Broomhead,

Medical Officer of Health.

Apart from two deaths due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, infectious diseases made no contribution to the death rate for the year 1961. This fortunate state of affairs should not be viewed with complacency as an increasing population is particularly vulnerable to imported virulent infectious disease from those countries within the Commonwealth which do not possess the effective health service we enjoy here.

The outbreaks of Smallpox imported from Pakistan to the Midlands and Wales towards the end of the year, illustrate this point and underline the need for careful control and medical examination, particularly at Airfields of all immigrants from infected areas. The real solution in the eradication of Smallpox however, is to control it in the same fashion in the Commonwealth as it is controlled in this Country.

The control of Smallpox requires, inter alia, vaccination and segregation of close contacts of the actual case and vaccination of those at special risk. It is not accepted by the Ministry of Health as good policy to introduce mass vaccination of the public for a variety of reasons, not the least being the need to conserve vaccine, at the onset of an outbreak, for the actual contacts quoted above.

There are also certain complications of vaccination to be considered, particularly when given to an adolescent or adult who has not been previously vaccinated during infancy.

Complications range from a severe reaction which may necessitate time off from work and a stay in bed, to serious generalised vaccinia and encephalitis or inflamation of the brain and subsequent death.

The health of the population of the Rural District has been satisfactory, apart from a large outbreak of Measles, accounting for the bulk of the cases of infectious disease notified.

The death rate (11 per 1000) is lower than that of the country as a whole and lower than that of 1960. Cancer and Coronary Disease, as usual made a large contribution to the total deaths.

The birth rate of 17.9 is lower than that of 1960 (21.2) and the infantile mortality rate (27.6) is higher than that of 1960 (23.1). Ten of these children died during their first week of life.

There has been a slight increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified (14) compared to 1960 (6). The total annual notifications have shown little variation however since 1954 (13-19) and the number of "Tuberculous Persons" known is slightly lower.

Provided a case of tuberculosis is treated in the early stage of the disease, the outlook is nowadays quite hopeful. It is important also that patients suffering from this infection in its early stage should seek treatment as soon as possible, in order that infectivity can be rapidly reduced thereby limiting spread of the disease.

Nevertheless there is a proportion of the public suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis who do not seek advice or treatment, and it is they who constitute the unknown pool of infection. To protect school children, they are offered a tuberculin test and subsequent B.C.G. vaccination if necessary before they leave school and mix more closely with the adult population.

The campaign for the eradication of bovine tuberculosis is now completed, and a further source of anxiety removed.

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In 1921, in the country as a whole, over eleven hundred children under five years of age died of abdominal tuberculosis, contracted by drinking infected cows milk in the raw state.

Cancer and Coronary Disease remain the two principle causes of death and it is gratifying that at last the Government has accepted the fact that there is a connection between cigarette smoking and lung cancer and supported a campaign to prevent the habit, particularly in the young.

One of the principal activities of Local Health Authorities to prevent disease, are their arrangements for vaccination and immunisation against Smallpox and Diphtheria. To these have been added Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis. It should be appreciated however, that the success of these procedures may give a false sense of security and it is important that parents should avail themselves fully of the facilities provided and see to it that their children are fully protected at all times.

During the year, the formation of the North West Wilts Water Board and the impending handing over of the Councils Water Works, occasioned considerable discussion and created an anomoly which is quoted in detail on page 10

Regular, routine samples of the raw and treated water in supply are taken for bacteriological examination and close liaison is kept with the Council's Engineer who is informed of the results of these investigations,

An estimation of the free chlorine available in the treated water as it leaves the reservoirs and from the supply mains is also made regularly.

In conclusion, to maintain the present excellent state of the public health, the continued provision and distribution of clean food, a pure and wholesome water supply, adequate housing, clean air and efficient sewage disposal, are still essentials.

On the following pages are the statistics on birth and death rates, the causes of death and the prevalence of infectious disease notified. The report of the Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. H.J. Taylor, includes comment on the inspections carried out and samples taken for examination at the Public Health Laboratory during the year; an invaluable contribution to the maintenance and improvement of the public health.

C.L. Broomhead,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres) 85,388

Population 33,840

No. of inhabited houses (end of 1961 according to the Rate Book) 8,655

Rateable Value at 31.12.61 . . . . . £360,403

Sum represented by the Penny Rate . . . . . £1499.

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	300	229	529
Illegitimate	7	6	13
Total	307	235	542

Crude Birth Rate for the District . . . . . .16.01 per 1000 of the population.

Adjusted Birth Rate for the District . . . . . .17.9 per 1000 of the population.

Comparative Rate for England & Wales . . . . . .17.4 per 1000 of the population.

Members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area are included in the population figure shown under the heading "General Statistics". To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from England & Wales as a whole, the crude birth and death rates for the district are to be multiplied by a "comparability factor" given by the Registrar General. The above statistics have been so corrected.

STILL BIRTHS

Fifteen still births were recorded during 1961. The rate per 1000 total live and still births is 16.4. The comparative rate for England & Wales is given by the Registrar General as 18.7

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one year of age:-

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	13	2	15
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	13	2	15

ten of these children died during their first week of life.

Rate per 1000 live births 27.6

Comparative rate for England & Wales 21.4

DEATHS

Deaths recorded in the Rural District during 1961 were as follows:-

Males	Females	Total
156	138	294

Crude death rate for the district. . . . . 8.7 per 1000 of the population.

Adjusted death rate for the district . . . . . .11.0 per 1000 of the population.

Comparative rate for England & Wales . . . . . .12.0 per 1000 of the population.

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	2
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	10	2	12
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	2	11
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	4	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	15	25
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	21	30
Coronary disease, angina	42	18	60
Hypertension with heart disease	-	3	3
Other heart disease	17	29	46
Other circulatory disease	7	8	15
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	10	3	13
Bronchitis	5	5	10
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	2	2	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	6	2	8
Other defined and ill defined diseases	11	10	21
Motor vehicle accidents	6	2	8
All other accidents	4	6	10
Suicide	2	-	2
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
TOTAL:	156	138	294

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table lists cases of infectious disease notified during 1961. Comparative statistics have been included for previous years since 1958:

DISEASE	1958 a	1958 b	1959 a	1959 b	1960 a	1960 b	1961 a	1961 b
Scarlet Fever	34	33	33	33	31	30	6	6
Whooping Cough	2	2	13	13	7	7	13	13
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	409	409	378	378	49	49	534	534
Ac.Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac.Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	11	9	46	39	9	7	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	1	2	2	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Para Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	14	14	2	2	27	27	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	14	14	8	8	3	3	4	4
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis (Virus)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria.	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
TOTAL:	484	481	483	476	129	126	557	557

"a" = Original numbers notified.
"b" = Final numbers after correction.

The above statistics concern cases of notifiable disease certified by General Practitioners. In addition, from time to time, information is received from Head Teachers, The Public Health Laboratory, Infectious Disease Hospitals and other sources of suspected cases of infections and enquiries are made as a result by the Public Health Inspectors. A proportion of these suspected cases are ultimately confirmed and the necessary action is taken to prevent further spread.

Apart from the large number of cases of Measles notified, notifiable infectious disease reached a record low level during the year. It is particularly gratifying that Poliomyelitis Food Poisoning and the more serious infections were conspicuous by their absence.

The Public Health Act, 1961 contains important provisions concerning Notifiable Infectious Diseases, particularly the liability of Local Authorities to compensate a person required to discontinue his work in order to prevent the spread of infection. In this connection, the provisions of Part 111 of the Public Health Act, 1961, do not apply to diseases made notifiable by virtue of Regulations made by the Minister under Section 143 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Inter alia, Poliomyelitis, unfortunately, is not a notifiable disease, and statutory action could not be taken under Section 41 of the Public Health Act, 1961.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases of Tuberculosis notified and confirmed by the Chest Physician during 1961 together with comparative statistics for previous years since 1948, are given below.

YEAR	PULMONARY	NON-PULMONARY	TOTAL
1948	14	7	21
1949	11	10	21
1950	30	2	32
1951	26	7	33
1952	23	5	28
1953	24	8	32
1954	8	3	11
1955	18	1	19
1956	11	2	13
1957	10	3	13
1958	15	2	17
1959	11	2	13
1960	6	-	6
1961	8	6	14

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1961.

Age Groups	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F
0								
1								
5		1		2				
15	3	2	1	2				
25								
35				1				
45	1							
55								
65 upwards		1			++ 3	1		
TOTALS:-	4	4	1	5	3	1	-	-

++ Two cases included in this figure have not been listed on page 6 of this report against the heading "Tuberculosis Respiratory" as the primary case of death was Carcinoma in both cases.

It should be noted that the above figures do not represent the total number of individuals suffering from Tuberculosis in the Rural District. In addition to the new cases notified each year, a certain proportion of tuberculous persons either move into the district or move out. According to the Register of Tuberculous Persons, the following notified and confirmed cases of Tuberculosis were living in the Rural District at the end of 1961.

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	66	37	103
Non-Pulmonary	22	27	49
Total	88	64	152

A total of 174 Tuberculous Persons were on the Register at the end of 1959, and 156 on the Register at the end of 1960.

WATER SUPPLIES

Chippenham Borough Water Undertakings supply a large part of the Rural District and the following comment on the Chippenham Borehole sources is appropriate.

A serious and immediate shortage of water from the Chippenham Borehole sources on the 25 Nov 61 necessitated the installation of pumping and filtering plant by the Royal Engineers in case it became necessary to use water from the River Avon, after further treatment, by superchlorination, as a temporary measure.

Fortunately, by cutting down the demand on the boreholes and by requesting adjacent Local Authorities to find alternative sources to meet their own requirements, it was not necessary to use the River Avon as a source after all.

The proposed use of the River Avon as a source of public supply, caused considerable concern to the Council and other Local District Councils receiving a water supply from the Chippenham Bores.

Close co-operation with the Medical Officers of Health of the Authorities concerned was maintained, and the Medical Officer at Westinghouse Works was also informed of the proposal.

The Ministry of Health, the County Medical Officer, the Bristol Avon River Board, the Mid.Wilts. Hospital Management Committee and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government were also informed.

Arrangements were made to hold daily staff conferences with the Clerks and Engineers of the Borough and Rural District Councils with the Medical Officer of Health present, in order that there should be the fullest co-operation and exchange of information at all times during the crisis.

In my opinion, the River Avon should not be used as a source of water for public consumption, unless no other sources are available, and then only after suitable filters and treatment plant have been installed and adequate reservoirs constructed.

The following additional information on the Rural District Council's Water Undertakings, has been supplied by Mr. Witham, the Council's Engineer.

There has been no change in the sources of water or their surroundings which could adversely affect the quality of the water. Treatment of all sources, except the small one at Slaughterford is by chlorination.

Late in November, a serious shortage of water developed in the Chippenham Borough sources resulting in a shortage in the bulk supply available in this district.

Steps taken by this Council to meet the emergency were:-

(i) Obtaining a new temporary bulk supply of water from the Bristol Waterworks Company. This was delivered through a temporary main into the Council's Marshfield Reservoir.

(ii) Increase in bulk supplies obtained from the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett R.D.C. and from the Air Ministry at Yatesbury.

(iii) Co-operation of the Devizes R.D.C. in reducing their bulk supply demand from the Council.

(iv) Propaganda resulting in a maximum overall reduction of 10% in consumption.

There is an urgent need to look for new sources of water for the district and to take steps to meet a shortage of water next autumn. It is understood that the proposed West Wilts. Water Board has this matter in hand.

The following statistics may be of interest:-

	1960	1961	
Average demand	1,467,000	1,611,000	galls per day.
Maximum demand	1,796,000	1,850,000	
Minimum demand	1,677,000	1,677,000	

The public water supplies are not plumbo-solvent.

No action, other than routine work was necessary in respect of contamination.

The total number of houses in the district on 31 Dec 61 was 8,655. All but 436 of these have a piped public water supply. Of those supplied with water, 18 houses are from public standpipes.

The percentage of population with a public piped water supply is 95%

I give below a list of the public standpipes in the district. It has been the Council's policy to remove these as they become redundant. Five were removed during the year. The remainder will, no doubt, be removed in the next few years.

I have no record of the number of private standpipes.

Parish	No. of Public Standpipes	No. of houses supplied.
Biddestone	Nil	
Box	1	3
Bremhill	Nil	
Calne without	Nil	
Castle Combe	1	1
Cherhill	Nil	-
Chippenham Without	Nil	-
Christian Malford	Nil	-
Colerne	3	3
Compton Bassett	Nil	-
Corsham	Nil	-
Grittleton	Nil	-
Heddington	Nil	-
Hilmarton	1	1
Kington Langley	Nil	-
Lacock	Nil	-
Langley Burrell	Nil	-
Nettleton	4	4
North Wraxall	Nil	-
Pewsham	Nil	-
Stanton St. Quinton	Nil	-
Sutton Benger	1	1
Yatton Keynell	3	5

FORMATION OF NORTH WEST WILTS. WATER BOARD

A Medical Officer of Health by virtue of his office has access to the deliberations of the appropriate committee dealing with water supplies, but is denied similar access to the newly formed Water Boards. He cannot therefore advise on any new schemes or the health of personnel employed by the Water Boards in their various activities.

This unsatisfactory state of affairs has been explained to the Public Health Committees of the Malmesbury Rural District Council, the Calne & Chippenham R.D.C., the Chippenham

Borough Council and the Calne Borough Council.

The following extract from the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health for the year 1957 should be noted.

"In accordance with modern policy, water undertakings, both private and public, are being subject to regional grouping, where necessary, with consequent changes in staffing and management. It may, therefore be of advantage to remind Medical Officers of Health and Public Health Inspectors, that the Memorandum on Safeguards to be adopted in day-to-day administration of Water Undertakings (Memo 221), issued by the Ministry of Health in 1939, and revised in 1948, has not in any way been affected by these events.

While the memorandum provides a useful and practical code of hygiene for water engineers and managers, it also indicates clearly that there is an overall medical responsibility which does not begin "at the tap", but extends from the actual source, whether above or below ground, to the consumer. All water undertakings therefore should ensure that they have access to competent medical advice, at all times; and in the case of a Local Authority undertaking, the appropriate committee should, in the interests both of the community and of itself, see that the Medical Officer of Health has an unrestricted interest in the health aspects of water production.

Copies of bacteriological and chemical reports on the raw and treated water should regularly be sent to the Health Dept; the health of workmen employed on gathering grounds, in wells or at boreholes and at pumping stations and treatment plants should be subjected to constant medical supervision, as indicated in para. 5 of Memo 221, if accidental bacterial infections are to be avoided".

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The following detail has been furnished by Mr, R.A. Witham, the Council's Engineer.

Parishes with modern sewerage systems and disposal works:-

	Date provided
Biddestone	1955
Box (1st stage)	1961
Box (2nd. stage)	Under construction.
Castle Combe	1955
Colerne	1948
Corsham	1939
Lacock	1932
Yatton Keynell	1958

Parishes with schemes in various stages of preparation.

Kington St. Michael Kington Langley Sutton Benger Christian Malford Bremhill(East Tytherton)	North Eastern Sewerage Scheme.	Scheme submitted to Ministry for approval.
Calne Without (Derry Hill & Studley)		Contract let.
Mile Elm		Approved by Ministry
Grittleton Hilmarton.		Outline schemes approved by Council.

In addition to the above, the Council have approved the preparation of schemes of sewage for Cherhill, Heddington and Stanton St. Quinton. Some preparatory work has been done in respect of Cherhill and Stanton St. Quinton.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

I am indebted to Dr. C.D.L. Lycett, County Medical Officer of Health, for the following information:-

Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisations (1961)

Year of birth		1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1952-56	1947-51
Primary imms. completed during 1961	Diph.	163	228	33	13	8	72	18
	Wh/c.	163	228	29	13	6	25	8
Reinf. injections administered during 1961.	Diph.	-	2	45	37	22	365	39
	W/c.	-	[illegible]	30	33	14	90	21

Vaccination against Smallpox. (1961)

Age Group.	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over
Vaccinations	272	29	21	20	18
Re-vaccinations	1	8	26	44	101

Poliomyelitis Immunisation - Completed Injections during 1961

Persons born	Second	Third	Fourth
1943-1961	886	994	1674
1933-1942	208	126	-
Before 1933, but who had not reached 40 years of age.	401	476	-
Others	23	26	-
	1513	1622	1674

The Wilts. County Council, as the Local Health Authority, arranges schemes of immunisation against such infections as Smallpox, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis and Tuberculosis. The actual immunisation is given by either members of the County Councils medical staff in schools or clinics or by General Practitioners in their surgeries.

I am grateful to Mr. O.J. Baugh, the Council's Housing Manager, for the following detail:-

1. Total Number of Applicants on List at 31.12.61 ... 512

2. Total Number of Applications received during 1961 ... 160

3. Total rehoused during year :

   (a) To Council houses - 88

   This figure includes all "permanent accommodation". It also includes a further 38 of 100 houses and flats which the Council are building at Corsham for the Admiralty (98 now having been completed)

   (b) To other accommodation - 26.

4. Total number of Applications for Retirement Bungalows .. 69

5. Evicted Families - Number brought to notice and dealt with

   15 - 7 (actually rehoused)

6. Number of new houses built and occupied during 1961

   (a) By the Council - 74 houses
   36 flats.
   27 bungalows.

   (b) By private enterprise - 116.

RE-DEVELOPMENT OF BUNGALOW ESTATES.

I. Site 1A.

Continued progress of the redevelopment of this Estate was made during the year.

The 33 remaining bungalows were demolished, and 33 families re-housed during the year.

A total of 46 units of accommodation had been provided on this Estate by the end of the year.

II. Rudloe Estate.

40 bungalows on the Estate were closed down during the year, and Stage I of the redevelopment scheme cleared ready for demolition.

61 bungalows remained occupied at the end of the year.

III. Site 1B.

3 bungalows were closed down during the year, leaving 179 occupied at 31st December, 1961.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council:

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour and pleasure to report on the detailed work carried out in the Public Health Department during 1961.

In my 1960 report I expressed the hope that the Council's Five-Year Slum Clearance Survey would be completed by the end of 1961: this target was not quite achieved, but 23 out of the 24 parishes have been surveyed and reports on all unfit houses presented to the Housing Committee.

The outstanding parish to be surveyed is Calne Without, with some 45 tentatively scheduled unfit houses to be inspected. Arrangements are being made for this survey to be commenced early in 1962 and the actual number of unfit houses in this parish should be known by June, 1962.

Reference to the Housing Statistics referred to later in this report will give detailed information on the number of properties inspected during the year and the subsequent housing action taken in respect of certain of the houses reported upon.

Having completed the original Five-Year Slum Clearance Survey, the opportunity will be taken to commence a new survey of unfit houses, as recommended by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in Circular No.2/60, dated 27th January 1960.

This new survey will reveal houses which have deteriorated since the original survey was undertaken in 1956. It is difficult to estimate the number of houses likely to be represented as unfit from this new survey, but within the next five years this total might be in the region of 70-80 houses.

So far as the improvement of houses with the aid of Discretionary and Standard Grants is concerned, I am pleased to report that a steady stream of applications and enquiries have been received during the year.

Discretionary Grants have been available since 1949, when the Housing Act, 1949, was enacted. These Grants were not an immediate success and owners of house property in the early years of the Act did not appreciate the benefit to them of such Grants. The original legislation has been amended by the Housing Repairs and Rent Act 1954 and the House Purchase and Housing Act 1959, further to encourage property owners to make application for such Grants.

Discretionary Grants have appealed more particularly to owner-occupiers of houses, but owners of property to let have not been so enthusiastic in applying for them. As an incentive to such owners, the Government has introduced legislation contained in the Housing Act 1961, which enables the rent of houses improved by means of Discretionary Grants to be increased to 12½% of the cost of such improvements borne by the owner, instead of 8% as hitherto.

Unlike the Discretionary Grants, Standard Grants have been an immediate success; such Grants became available in June, 1959, when the House Purchase and Housing Act 1959 came into force. To date, some 107 Standard Grants have been approved, of which total 43 were approved during 1961.

On reflection, I think it can fairly be stated that these Grants have proved a boon to property owners, and a visit to any parish or village will reveal the contribution which the Grants have made towards the great improvement which can be seen, both internally and externally, in the cottage properties within the rural district.

The provision of new sewerage schemes to certain parishes should further encourage house owners to apply for Discretionary or Standard Grants to modernise their properties and provide the essential amenities of bathroom, w.c., hot water supply, etc., which every property should possess.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order 1960 came into force on the 1st October 1960, and certain functions performed by District Councils under previous milk legislation would be transferred to County Councils. Licences to use certain special designations in relation to milk would also be issued by County Councils.

Prolonged negotiations between the Wilts County Council and District Councils resulted finally in responsibility for the issue of milk licences being delegated to District Councils, the County Council having agreed to reimburse District Councils for the cost of this work. The Delegation Agreement came into force on the 9th October 1961.

The Council has undertaken to take some 480 samples of milk per year and to issue the necessary dealers' milk licences. All new licences issued will be valid for a period of five years from the 1st January 1960. These dealers' licences enable retailers to distribute pre-packed designated milk anywhere in Wiltshire and the need for supplementary milk licences has been abolished.

Last year I reported on the results of a survey of moveable dwellings which was undertaken in October and November 1960, following the enactment of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

A detailed report was presented to a joint meeting of a Sub-Committee composed of members of the Buildings and Planning and Public Health Committees. This Sub-Committee met on two occasions and considered in detail a schedule of all caravan sites then existing within the rural district. The Sub-Committee has the responsibility of reporting on the suitability of these sites as permanent caravan sites, having first considered the location, siting and sanitary circumstances of each site.

The recommendations of the Sub-Committee were considered by the Public Health Committee on the 19th December 1960, and the final recommendations on each site were forwarded to the County Council as the local planning authority. In May 1961, the recommendations of the County Council, as the local planning authority, were considered by the Buildings and Planning Committee and the planning decision in respect of each existing site was made. Very careful thought had to be given to the planning aspect of each application as once planning consent had been obtained, a public health site licence necessarily followed.

As a result of the deliberations of the Sub-Committee, it was considered that the magnitude of the caravan problem within the rural district was such as to justify the Council establishing further caravan sites. Such sites would provide alternative accommodation for those caravans stationed on unsatisfactory sites and would also help the homeless people in the rural district who were anxious to obtain caravan standings.

It was ultimately decided to enlarge the Northleaze Caravan Site, Corsham, and to make provision for three smaller sites at Yatton Keynell, Sutton Benger and Goatacre. Unfortunately, for one reason and another, these sites were not available by the end of 1961, and it was not possible therefore to secure the removal of caravans on unsatisfactory sites.

The details of the number of site licences issued and other action taken as a result of decisions by the Council in connection with caravans is given later in this report.

The refuse collection and disposal service has been adequately maintained, although I have had the greatest difficulty in recruiting labour to replace men who have left the service. The constant change in personnel in this labour force hampers the service and leads to numerous complaints of non-collection of household refuse from the more isolated premises, as the new men are not so familiar with the geography of the area and the limits of the daily areas of collection.

New residents in the rural district complain bitterly of the curbside refuse collection service andbecome quite annoyed when a request for a back-door collection is refused, unless the complainant can produce medical evidence that he or she is physically incapable of bringing their dustbin adjacent to the curbside.

The day may not be too far distant when it will be impossible to retain sufficient labour force to maintain this service in its present form. On hygienic grounds, and maybe for reasons of sheer necessity, some more satisfactory and alternative system of refuse collection, such as the "Paper Sacks" system, may have to be introduced, and I am obtaining as much information on this subject as I can, so that at some future date I may be able to present a detailed report on the advantages, disadvantages, cost, etc., of this method of refuse collection.

Perhaps I should add a word of warning, that any radical change in the present refuse collection service could only be undertaken after very careful thought and preparation, and the new service would have to be introduced gradually, over a period of years. There would be many snags to overcome and the initial cost of operating this service would be heavy.

New Public Health legislation has not been so prolific as in recent years, but I feel I should mention the introduction of the undermentioned legislation:-

Public Health Act, 1961;
Housing Act, 1961;
Land Drainage Act, 1961.

Brief details of this new legislation are given later in this report.

1961 has been a momentous year so far as the Public Health Department is concerned, for on the 1st November the duties of Surveyor to the Council, which, since the formation of the Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council in 1934, had been undertaken by the Senior Public Health Inspector and his staff, were transferred to the Engineer's Department.

Progress in public health administration must of necessity bring changes in responsibilities and duties. When I was appointed to the staff of this Council in 1937, my predecessor held the appointments of Senior Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, Waterworks Manager, and Council House Manager.

I would here like to pay a tribute to Mr.Smale, Mr.Davis, Mr.C.Jones and Mr.E.Jones, who have been transferred to the Engineer's Department, for the very valuable work which they have undertaken on behalf of the Department whilst under my control. I am sure that the conscientious work undertaken in the department has won the respect of Architects, Surveyors, Building Contractors, and the general public, with whom we have had the honour and pleasure of working. I am confident that the reputation of the department will be maintained and enhanced under the able direction of Mr.Witham.

I wish to express my thanks to the Council for the generous support which I have received during the past twelve months, to Dr.Broomhead for his guidance and help, and to the whole staff in the Public Health Department for their loyal service on behalf of the Council.

Much has been achieved during the 25 years that I have been a servant of the Council and much more would have been accomplished but for the advent of World War II, but I am confident that the next 25 years will bring many desirable and revolutionary changes in the environmental and living conditions of the residents of this progressive rural district.

I have the honour to be,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H.J.TAYLOR,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS DURING 1961:

		1961		1960
General Sanitation:				
Water supply		204		297
Drainage		349		289
Stables and Piggeries		20		31
Fried Fish Shops		5		7
Factories - power		11		31
" - non-power		3		1
Tents, Vans and Sheds		320		287
Bakehouses		8		20
Public Conveniences		57		42
Theatres and Places of Entertainment		1		1
Licensed Premises		33		14
Refuse Collection		170		210
Refuse Disposal		179		125
Rats and Mice		179		16
Atmospheric Pollution		60		2
Schools		9		52
Shops		29		26
Nuisances		166		123
Water Samples		356		413
Sewage Samples		18		55
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits		480		300
Housing:				
No. of houses inspected under Public Health Acts	24		22	
Re-visits to above houses		46		25
No. of houses inspected under Housing Acts	112		165	
Re-visits to above houses		368		303
No. of houses inspected for overcrowding	2		2	
Re-visits to above houses		1		11
No. of inspections of houses infested by flies or wasps			8	
No. of filthy or verminous premises inspected	18		9	
Re-visits to above premises		4		3
No. of premises inspected in connection with Improvement Grants	111		151	
Re-visits to above premises		168		360
No. of miscellaneous housing visits		240		138
Infectious Diseases:				
No. of enquiries in cases of infectious disease		30		32
No. of visits re disinfection		11		13
No. of miscellaneous infectious diseases visits		13		135
No. of food poisoning enquiries		5		4
Meat and Food Inspections:				
No. of visits to knacker's year		6		6
" " " " shops and stalls		-		4
" " " " other meat premises		-		-
" " " " butchers		8		12
" " " " centeens		1		3
" " " " dairies and milk distributors		48		21
" " " " fishmongers and poulterers		24		28
" " " " food preparing premises		17		22
" " " " grocers		54		61
" " " " greengrocers and fruiterers		2		-
" " " " ice cream premises		19		9
" " " " market stalls		-		-
" " " " restaurants and cafes		33		21
" " " " street vendors and hawkers		10		5
	267	3765	357	3558

Brought forward:	267	3765	357	3558
Visits in connection with Sampling:				
Milk - bacteriological samples		252		122
" - biological samples		34		7
Ice cream samples		157		105
Visits in connection with:				
Surveying		136		1648
Petrol and carbide		21		11
Town planning		205		409
Totals:	267	4570	357	5860

DRAINAGE.

Nuisances.

A large number of complaints of nuisances of one kind and another have been investigated and some 166 visits and inspections have been made in connection with this work. Most of these complaints have concerned nuisances arising from unsatisfactory drainage disposal.

In some cases it has been possible to require the execution of work to deal effectively with the cause of the complaints, but in many circumstances the nuisances can only be alleviated temporarily and the permanent solution is the construction of public sewers and sewage disposal works.

The Government should be urged to step up the approval of all urgent sewerage schemes and to give the same priority for this work as is given for the provision of new housing accommodation.

The lack of satisfactory facilities for the disposal of household drainage is hampering the provision of the essential amenities of bathroom, w.c. and hot water supply to so many of the cottages in the various villages within the rural district still without main drainage.

Much money is being spent on the provision of septic tanks and other means of disposal of drainage and this money could, with more advantage, be directed to the cost of connecting household drainage to the main sewers.

People who have constructed septic tank drainage in villages now provided with mains drainage are generally unwilling to face the additional expense of diverting household drainage to the public sewers. In many cases the existing drains have been laid, because of the fall of the land, in the opposite direction to the line of the new sewers.

Connection to Sewers.

Yatton Keynell.

After a very promising start, the number of cottages and other properties in this parish connected to the sewer was rather limited. Thirteen new connections were made during the year, bringing the total number connected to 71% of the total of 95 properties which could be connected.

Owners of unconnected properties have been urged to connect to the sewer and some are obtaining costs of such connections. Greater progress will not be made without compulsory action, and in some instances this may lead to hardship, particularly in cases where cottages are owner/occupied by elderly couples with small incomes.

Box.

I understand that good progress has been made on the construction of the new public sewers and sewage disposal works for this parish, and that Stage I of the scheme is nearing completion. Stage II, for the Ditteridge and Middlehill areas, is in hand.

Some existing properties have been connected to the sewer and other connections are contemplated. As certain essential lengths of sewer were still under construction, no survey of the existing drainage facilities of properties was undertaken by the Public Health Department this year. This survey will, however, be undertaken in 1962.

Calne Without - Derry Hill - Studley.

Work on this scheme, which has received the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, will be started early in January, 1962.

Sampling of Sewage Effluents.

Only a limited number of sewage effluent samples have been taken as it was anticipated that with the transfer to the Council of the Ministry of Works sewage disposal works at Hawthorn, the Manager of the works would have been responsible for the analyses of all sewage effluents, to see that these effluents complied with the recognised Royal Commission standard. The transfer of these works had not taken place by the latter half of the year, and so some eight samples were taken from certain disposal plants. The results are tabulated below:

Sewage Disposal Works.		Satisfactory.		Unsatisfactory.	
		1961	1960	1961	1960
Castle Combe (Long Dean)		1	(1)	-	(-)
Colerne		1	(1)	-	(-)
Corsham		-	(-)	-	(1)
Lacock		1	(1)	-	(-)
Sewage Disposal Plants.					
Bremhill	(Wick Bridge)	-	(-)	1	(1)
Bremhill	(Loderwicks)	-	(1)	1	(-)
Calne Without	(Norley Lane)	1	(1)	-	(-)
Christian Malford	(Coronation Close)	-	(1)	-	(-)
Hilmarton	(Goatacre)	-	(1)	-	(-)
Kington Langley	(Doveys Terrace)	-	(1)	-	(-)
Kington Langley	(Plough Lane)	-	(1)	-	(-)
Kington St.Michael	(Town Close)	-	(-)	-	(1)
Langley Burrell	(Oakhurst)	-	(-)	-	(1)
Sutton Benger	(Upper Seagry)	1	(1)	-	(-)
Sutton Benger	(Seagry Hill)	-	(-)	-	(1)
Heddington	(Scotts Close)	1	(-)	-	(-)

The Land Drainage Act, 1961.

This Act enables river boards and catchment boards to raise drainage charges for the purpose of meeting part of their expenses and to make further provisions relating to the drainage of land and to drainage boards.

Drainage boards have the authority to require silted watercourses, where the flow of water is impeded, to be cleared and graded.

New Provisions:

Section 34 of the Act confers similar powers to those exercised by drainage boards, on local authorities, to undertake drainage work for the purpose of preventing flooding or remedying or mitigating any drainage caused by flooding.

Public Health Act, 1961.

This Act, which came generally into force on the 3rd October, 1961, is comprehensive in nature and deals with such important matters as building regulations, trade effluents, contributions to the cost of sewers, closet accommodation for separate dwellings, food storage accommodation in new houses, accumulation of rubbish, refuse and litter bins, dangerous and ruinous buildings and neglected sites, filthy or verminous premises or articles, prevention and notification of disease and other special legislation related to streets, public places, parks and open spaces.

Of particular interest to the agricultural community is Section 63, which extends the definition of "trade premises" in sub-section (1) of Section 14 of the Act of 1937 to include any land or premises used or intended to be used (in whole or in part and whether for profit or not):

(a) agricultural or horticultural purposes; or
(b) for scientific research or experiment.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The public conveniences have been satisfactorily maintained at Box, Castle Combe, Colerne, Corsham and Lacock.

A major reconstruction of the room over the Box public conveniences had to be undertaken as this building was deemed to be unsafe. The interior walls of these conveniences and those at Corsham, have been replastered and a rough Tyrolean rendering applied in an endeavour to discourage people from defacing the walls. I think the experiment has been a success, although writings and drawings still appear on all door surfaces.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

As from April 1st 1961, the frequency of collection from the parishes of Box, Colerne, parts of Corsham, and Lacock, was changed from fortnightly to weekly. This alteration was one of the factors which contributed to the increased cost of this service. Wages also increased and the cost of maintaining the various refuse tips in a satisfactory condition was higher, the operational cost of this service being £14,136.

The Council took delivery of an 18-cu.yd. Shelvoke and Drewry Refuse Disposal Vehicle with power press, and also replaced the obsolete Howard Bulloader with a Michigan power-operated earth-moving machine.

The purchase of the Michigan vehicle has enabled the Council to handle satisfactorily the refuse collected from within the rural district and also that delivered by the Melksham Urban District Council to the Council's refuse tip at Inwood, Lacock.

Not only has this machine disposed adequately of the increased quantity of refuse, it has also enabled several acres of refuse to be covered and levelled with some 12 inches of soil, so that land which was waterlogged and unsuitable for agricultural use has now been brought back into cultivation.

The arrangements made with the Melksham Urban District Council to receive and dispose of their refuse at Inwood have proceeded smoothly, but the disposal of so much additional refuse is using up valuable tipping space, and unless additional land in the area can be made available for the disposal of this refuse, the agreement with the Melksham Urban District Council will have to be terminated.

Further tipping facilities are required in the north-western and eastern parts of the rural district and negotiations are proceeding to acquire or lease new sites.

The Council's refuse staff now consists of:

One working foreman,
One tip attendant, responsible for operating the Michigan tractor,
Four drivers,
Ten loaders or ashbinmen,
One paper baler.

The Council's fleet of refuse vehicles consists of:

One - 10 cu.yd. Bedford,	purchased in	1951.
One - 18 cu.yd. Shelvoke & Drewry,	" "	1954.
One - 12 cu.yd. Bedford,	" "	1956.
One - 12 cu.yd. Bedford,	" "	1959.
One - 18 cu.yd. Shelvoke & Drewry, with power press,	" "	1961.
One - 5-ton open Bedford lorry	" "	1958.
One - Ford van.	" "	1958.
One - Michigan tractor,	" "	1961.

Approximately 9667 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of at the various tips, the approximate cost of the service during 1961 being as follows:-

	1961	1960
Cost of collection	£10,463.	£8,207.
" " disposal	3,673.	3,717.
	£14,136.	£11,924.

SUPPLY OF DUSTBINS.

The Council continued to purchase and sell dustbins to ratepayers in the rural district, and some 161 dustbins have been sold. This service was introduced to encourage the use of impervious dustbins with close-fitting covers by householders, but I still have to report that refuse is placed in old oil-drums, baths and cardboard boxes prior to collection. The percentage of householders using dustbins during the past year or so has increased from 40% to 60% approximately, and during the next year or so pressure will be brought to bear on persons not storing refuse in satisfactory dustbins, to do so.

LITTER ACT, 1958.

Litter Baskets and Litter Control.

I regret to report that the provision of litter baskets and drums at road lay-bys, 'bus shelters, and other prominent positions, within certain parishes, has not led to any appreicable improvement in the condition of street gutters and highway verges. On the contrary, the surrounding areas of the lay-bys are becoming a dumping ground for all manner of materials, and the verges, ditches and hedgerows are full of milk and beer bottles, tin cans, scrap metal, and other rubbish. The Litter Act has had no appreciable impact on people passing through or residing within the rural district, and unless stronger measures are taken to impose the provisions of this Act, conditions will further deteriorate, rather than improve.

WASTE PAPER.

The quantity of waste paper collected during 1961 has been disappointing. After collection of some 335 tons of waste paper last year, the total has dropped to 294 tons, a reduction of nearly 40 tons. This loss was partly brought about by the changeover of the waste paper depot from Woodlands to Bradford Road, Corsham. This interruption caused a loss of some 20 tons of waste paper, which could not be stored or baled at the new depot and consequently had to be disposed of by burning. Additional storage facilities which have now been provided, should prevent this happening again.

I would however, appeal to the public to salvage waste paper and place it out for collection, as the sale of waste paper is a useful source of revenue to the Council.

OFFENSIVE TRADES:

Public Health Act 1936, Section 107.

There are no offensive trade establishments, as defined by Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936, within the area of this Council.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

The two existing fish and chip shops situated at Box and Colerne, have been maintained in a satisfactory manner. A new shop opened at Beechfield Road, Corsham.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960.

As a result of the deliberations of the Buildings and Planning Committee, following a detailed report on the caravan situation within the rural district, the following decisions were made in respect of existing caravans within the various parishes of the rural district:

TABLE OF DECISIONS:

Parish.	Temporary Planning Consent granted for:		Enforcement Procedure.
	One year	5-10 years	
Biddestone	2	-	1
Box	5	3	1
	(Permanent planning consent already granted for a site for 29 caravans at Box.)		
Bremhill	3	2	-
Calne Without	2	1	1
Cherhill	3	-	2
Xhippenham Without	-	-	3
Christian Malford	1	1	1
Colerne	1	2	2
Compton Bassett	1	-	-
Corsham	5	3	4
Heddington	-	1	-
Hilmarton	2	2	-
Kington Langley	-	1	-
Kington St.Michael	1	1	-
Lacock	-	2	-
Nettleton	2	1	-
North Wraxall	-	1	-
Pewsham	-	1	-
Sutton Benger	2	2	-
Yatton Keynell	3	-	-
	33	24	15

As a result of the decisions of the Buildings and Planning Committee, conditional public health site licences have been issued in respect of sites.

The efforts and decisions of the Council made during 1961 in connection with caravans within the district have clarified the position, and when the additional Council Caravan Sites have been established the caravan problem so far as this district is concerned should be solved.

Licences authorising Persons to erect or station and use Moveable Dwellings:

Parishes with Licensed Moveable Dwellings - Licences Issued.

Biddestone	2	Colerne	3	Lacock	2
Box	8	Compton Bassett	1	Langley Burrell Wt.	-
Bremhill	4	Corsham	9	Nettleton	3
Calne Without	3	Grittleton	-	North Wraxall	1
Castle Combe	1	Heddington	1	Pewsham	1
Cherhill	3	Hilmarton	5	Stanton St.Quintin	-
Chippenham Wt.	-	Kington Langley	1	Sutton Benger	4
Christian Malford	2	Kington St.Michael	2	Yatton Keynell	3

Northlease Caravan Site, Bradford Road, Corsham.

There has been a continuous demand for standings on this site and the proposed additional 28 sites are urgently needed.

The proposal to tarmacadam the existing road surface will be welcomed by the occupiers of this site.

The provision of a new ring water main and individual water points for each standing has been appreciated.

Thanks to the efforts of the Site Warden, this caravan site has been maintained in a very satisfactory condition and the occupiers have been well satisfied with the amenities provided.

Clarke's Leaze Caravan Site, Yatton Keynell.

Sutton Lane Caravan Site, Sutton Benger.

Goatacre Caravan Site, Hilmarton.

The above three caravan sites were not available by the end of the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Sections 83-85.

Filthy or Verminous Premises or Articles, and Verminous Persons.

It has been necessary to visit several properties in connection with verminous or filthy premises and suitable treatments have been given to deal with infestations. Repeat visits are made to these properties and every encouragement is given to the occupiers to improve and maintain the general standard of cleanliness of the cottages and surroundings.

FLIES AND WASPS.

A number of enquiries have been received on how to deal with infestations offlies and wasps. I am quite happy to deal with fly infestations as treatments can be carried out without danger to the operator.

Wasps are a different proposition, particularly when they have lodged in the roof or cavity wall of a house, and I am not keen on the staff dealing with these infestations, especially as we are not provided with protective headgear or gloves.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Enquiries have been made into eight cases of Scarlet Fever and in every case disinfection of the premises was carried out.

Fortunately, there has been no serious outbreak of dysentery during the year and it has only been necessary to make enquiries into six isolated cases, and there were duly cleared.

Enquiries were also made into the environmental circumstances of eight notified tuberculosis cases and disinfection of the premises has been carried out where appropriate.

There were two cases of salmonella typhi murium in the district, and these were subsequently cleared.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.
FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960.

Some 170 visits have been made to the 113 food premises established in the rural district. With few exceptions, these shops have been reasonably well maintained and in certain cases extensive improvements have been made to the shop premises. Eight new shops have been opened, including four at the Prospect Housing Estate, Corsham.

Food premises within the area consist of:

Grocers	22
General stores	55
Butchers	9
Fish and fruit shops	6
Restaurants and cafes	10
Fish and chip shops	3
Bakers	8

Condemned Foods.

The Council's Public Health Inspectors are called in, from time to time, to inspect foodstuffs at various food premises. During 1961, the following foodstuffs were condemned and voluntarily surrendered as being unfit for human consumption:

One - 10lb. tin imported frozen Lambs' Livers..... degeneration.
One - 12oz. jar Furzman's Pickled Eggs..... tainted.
118 lbs. Chilled Salt Beef..... putrefaction.

POULTRY PACKING STATIONS: CORSHAM AND SUTTON BENGER.

The total daily throughput of birds from these stations is in the region of 35,000 - 40,000, and with an output of this magnitude it is impossible to provide 100% inspection at these stations. Additional staff would be required to achieve this 100% inspection, if this was considered necessary.

Fortunately, both stations are well-organised and equipped, and the bacterial condition of all birds closely supervised by the purchasers of the products passing through the stations. Furthermore, both firms employ their own analysts to advise them on their methods of production, and the condition of finished products.

Weekly visits are made to these factories and a close liaison exists between the management and the Council's staff. Some guidance however, is required from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foos, as to the necessity for 100% inspection at Poultry Packing Stations.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1959.

There are now 92 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, compared with 88 in 1960.

148 samples of ice cream were taken during the year, of which 144 were Grade I and the rest Grade II. No samples were in the lower grades. It is expected that the majority of ice cream samples taken from one producer should fall into Grades I or II; samples which fall into Grades III or IV suggest some faulty practice or practices in the course of production or distribution.

Premises registered for the Storage and Sale of Ice Cream.

Biddestone.....	1	Colerne.....	7	Lacock.....	5
Box.....	12	Compton Bassett...	2	Langley Burrell Wt.	1
Bremhill.....	3	Corsham.....	23	Nettleton.....	3
Calne Without....	2	Grittleton.....	2	North Wraxall.....	2
Castle Combe.....	4	Heddington.....	2	Pewsham.....	1
Cherhill.....	4	Hilmarton.....	3	Stanton St.Quintin.	1
Chippenham Wt. ..	-	Kington Langley...	2	Sutton Benger.....	3
Christian Malford	2	Kington St.Michael	3	Yatton Keynell.....	4

Sampling of Ice Cream.

	1961	1960
Grade I	144	115
" II	4	6
" III	-	-
" IV	-	-

These results are extremely satisfactory and show a marked improvement over reports on sampling of ice cream for previous years.

LICENSED PREMISES.

33 routine inspections of licensed premises have been made during the year. Major improvements to the public rooms at one inn were completed during 1961.

There are 63 licensed premises in the district and all now have proper washing facilities at the bars. One only is without water-borne sanitation, and in this case provision of drainage is impossible owing to the situation of the house and the levels of the adjoining land. A generally good standard of hygiene is maintained by the licensees.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are now eight bakehouses in the rural district and eight visits have been made in connection with these. The bakehouses are in the following parishes:

Bremhill..... 2
Castle Combe.... 1
Cherhill..... 1
Colerne..... 1
Corsham..... 3

Bakehouses situated at Hilmarton, Kington St.Michael and Sutton Benger have closed during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955, SECTION 63:

Knacker's Yard, Heddington.

Following a satisfactory report on the general conditions at these premises, the Council agreed to renew the licence for the continuance of this knacker's yard. Six visits have been made to the premises during the year and everything has been found in a satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (PREVENTION OF CRUELTY) REGULATIONS, 1958.

The return of horses slaughtered at the Heddington knacker's yard showed that 30 were slaughtered during 1961, 24 on farm premises and 6 in the slaughterhouse. The total number of carcases received at the yard was 34.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.
SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1954.
SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (PREVENTION OF CRUELTY) REGULATIONS, 1958; SECTION 19.

Five new slaughterman's licences have been issued under the above Regulations. These men are employed at the Knacker's Yard at Heddington.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958.
SLAUGHTERHOUSE (REPORTS) DIRECTION, 1959.

No slaughterhouses have operated in the rural district since 1939 and all home-killed meat is obtained from slaughterhouses in Chippenham, Bath, Swindon, Devizes and Weston-super-Mare.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.
MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1959.

Registration of Dairies, other than Dairy Farms, and of Distributors.

Regulation 8(1) requires the registration of distributors only with the local authority in whose area the premises from which the milk is distributed are situated:

No. of registered dairies 17 (17)
No. of registered distributors 21 (22)

48 routine inspections have been made at these premises.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1960.

No. of Dealers' Licences to use the designation "Tuberculin-Tested Milk" 3

Tuberculin-Tested Milk Dealers:

Calne Without ... 1 Corsham ... 1 Yatton Keynell ... 1

No. of Dealers' (Pre-Packed) Milk Licences to use the designation "Tuberculin-Tested" 11

No. of Dealers' (Pre-Packed) Milk Licences to use the designation "Pasteurised" 14

No. of Dealers' (Pre-Packed) Milk Licences to use the designation "Sterilised" 5

Pre-Packed Milk Dealers:

		Corsham	7
Box	2	Colerne	1
Calne Without	1	Lacock	1
Christian Malford	1	Yatton Keynell	1

The applications from six Dealers for licences to use the designations "Tuberculin-Tested", "Pasteurised" and "Sterilised" in relation to pre-packed milk, were still under review, and licences would be issued in 1962 if the dairies and methods of handling, storage, and bottling etc., of the milk, were considered satisfactory.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1960.

These Regulations have replaced and consolidated by amendments, the Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949-54, and the Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949-53.

The functions of the former Regulations, which were generally administered by district councils, have been transferred to the Food and Drugs authority (the Wilts County Council), as from the 1st October 1960.

In my introduction to this report I have given particulars of the negotiations which have taken place between this Council and the County Council concerning the delegation of the County Council's functions under the Regulations, to this Council. The County Council has retained the responsibility for licensing and supervising all Pasteurisation plants within the county.

A comprehensive survey of all registered dairies was undertaken during November and December to ascertain whether the arrangements for handling, storage and distribution of milk at these registered premises, were such as to justify the issue of dealers' licences to use the designations "Pasteurised", "Sterilised" or "Tuberculin-Tested" milk.

There are three kinds of Dealers' licences:-

(i) dealers' licences to use the special designation "Pasteurised" or "Sterilised", as the case may be, in relation to milk Pasteurised by the applicant;

(ii) dealers' licences to use the special designation "Tuberculin-Tested" in relation to milk bottled by them at registered premises;

(iii) dealer's (pre-packed) milk licence to permit the sale of all three kinds of specially designated milk where the milk is obtained by the dealer in the container in which it is to be supplied to the consumer.

Every dealer's licence shall, subject to the provision of these Regulations, continue in force until the expiration of a period of five years ending 31st December 1965.

The survey and consequent interviews with applicants for licences has enabled the new provisions of the Regulations to be thoroughly discussed and these dealers can be in no doubt as to the standard which the Council will expect to be maintained at registered premises. Indeed, two dealers have decided to provide new dairy accommodation in which to continue their businesses.

MILK SAMPLING.

Routine milk samples have been taken each month from the milk distributors licensed by the Council and altogether 265 samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratories for testing. The reports on these milk samples were as follows:-

Satisfactory	249	(101)
Unsatisfactory	16	(11)

In addition to the sampling of milk, five rinse series of milk bottles were sent to the Public Health Laboratories to check on the effectiveness of the bottle-washing process, all of which were found to be satisfactory.

When samples have failed to pass the prescribed tests, special visits have been made to the dairy premises and a thorough examination of the dairy and methods of handling, bottle-washing, etc., carried out. When raw "Tuberculin-Tested" milk has failed to pass the prescribed tests and the fault for such failure cannot be attributed to the methods of handling etc. at the retail dairy, then the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is informed so that a visit of inspection can be made to the place of production of the milk.

SHOPS ACT, 1950; SECTION 38.

29 inspections have been made of shop premises in connection with lighting, ventilation, and the provision of sanitary conveniences, etc.

I have no special observations to make in relation to shop premises, other than to report that these are generally well-maintained, and the general standard of accommodation and management is improving each year.

RENT ACT, 1957; SECTION 2 and 1st SCHEDULE.

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair have been received during 1961.

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959, AND THE HOUSING ACT, 1961.

Discretionary Grants.	1961	1960
No. of applications received	46	55
No. of applications approved	36	45
No. of applications refused	3	2
No. of applications under consideration	4	15
No. of applications withdrawn	6	1
No. of houses improved with the aid of grants	47	47
Value of the Grants authorised	£18,843.10.6.	£13,984.0.0.

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959.

Standard Grants.	1961	1960
No. of applications received	49	46
No. of applications approved	43	45
No. of applications withdrawn	3	9
No. of applications under consideration	3	-
Value of maximum permitted Grants authorised	£5,310.	£6,280.
No. of houses improved with the aid of Grants	39	31
Total amount of Grants paid	£4,626.7.7.	-

HOUSING ACTS.
HOUSING ACT, 1957.

The statistics given below show the formal action taken by the Council in respect of unfit houses which have been reported during 1961.

Parishes which have been surveyed for unfit houses during 1961 include:-

Box.	Grittleton	North Wraxall
Cherhill	Heddington	Pewsham
Chippenham Without	Lacock	Yatton Keynell.

The statistics presented will not reveal the full extent of the Council's housing activities during 1961 as final decisions in respect of unfit houses in Lacock will not be made until sometime in 1962.

Housing Statistics.

1. No. of permanent dwellings in the district at end of the year 7981

2. No. of permanent dwellings in district owned by the local authority 1253

3. No. of temporary dwellings in the district owned by the local authority 827

4. No. of applications for Council houses at end of the year 491

5. Inspection of Dwellings during the year:	1961	1960
(a) No. of dwellings inspected for housing defects under the Public Health Acts	32	160
(b) No. of dwellings inspected for housing defects under the Housing Acts	69	316
(c) No. of dwellings so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	44	61
(d) No. of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..	25	11
(e) No. of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	1	3

6. Action under Statutory Powers:

A. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:

(i) No. of dwellings where formal notices were served	2	7
(ii) No. of dwellings made fit as the result of formal notices:		
(a) By owners	Nil	6
(b) By local authority in default of owners	2	1

	1961	1960
B. Proceedings under Housing Acts, Sections 9,10 & 12:		
(i) No. of dwellings where notices were served, requiring defects to be remedied	Nil	
(ii) No. of dwellings rendered fit after the service of formal notices:		
(a) By owners	Nil	
(b) By local authority in default of owner	Nil	
C. Proceedings under Housing Acts 1957, Section 16:		
(i) No. of Demolition Orders made	11	23
(ii) No. of houses demolished as a result of Demolition Orders	17	5
(iii) No. of undertakings accepted	19	23
(iv) No. of undertakings completed	7	1
D. Proceedings under Housing Acts 1947, Sections 42, 43, 46 & 48:		
(i) No. of houses in Clearance Areas upon which Demolition Orders were made	Nil	
(ii) No. of houses demolished as a result of Demolition Orders	Nil	
(iii) No. of houses in Clearance Areas which have been retained as temporary accommodation	Nil	
E. Proceedings under Housing Acts, 1957, Sections 17, 18 & 27:		
(i) No. of dwellings where Closing Orders were made	5	10
(ii) No. of dwellings closed as a result of Closing Orders or undertakings by owners	6	9
(iii) No. of dwellings where Closing Orders were cancelled in consequence of premises being made fit	Nil	Nil
F. Proceedings under Housing Act 1957, Section 76:		
(i) No. of cases of overcrowding at end of the year	- Not known -	
(ii) No. of cases of overcrowding discovered during the year	Nil	Nil
(iii) No. of cases of overcrowding abated during year	Nil	Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1961.

Part I of the Act concerns the financial assistance for housing accommodation provided by local authorities and other public bodies, and advances to housing associations providing housing accommodation for letting.

Part II provides much-needed legislation to enable local authorities to deal effectively with the very real problem of houses in multiple occupation.

Section 25 enables a local authority to permit the reconstruction of a house condemned under a Demolition Order; whilst Section 26 allows the substitution of a Closing Order for a Demolition Order to enable a house to be used otherwise than for human habitation.

Part III deals with miscellaneous and general matters, including amendments to existing improvement grant legislation.

Section 29 allows the rent limit under the Rent Act 1957 to be increased for improvements from 8% to 12½%.

Section 30 amends the definition of hot water supply to include "a hot water supply at a fixed bath or shower in a bathroom, and at a wash-basin, and at a sink."

HOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960.

This Act became law in November, 1960. Its main function is to enable local authorities to deal with complaints of noise or vibration of such intensity as to constitute a statutory nuisance for the purposes of Part III of the Public Health Act 1936.

The Act restricts the operation of loudspeakers in a street between the hours of nine o'clock in the evening and eight o'clock the following morning, and at any time for the purpose of advertising any entertainment, trade, or business. Certain public authorities and travelling showmen, under certain circumstances, are exempt from these regulations.

No formal complaints of noise nuisance have so far been referred to this department.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, AND WATER ACT, 1945.

367 samples were taken during the year, 326 from public supplies and 41 from private wells or springs supplying water to dwellinghouses which have not yet been connected to the Council's mains.

10 chemical water reports have been received in respect of the Council's main sources and copies of these have been passed to the Council's Engineer for his information. 2 chemical samples were also taken of water from swimming pools in the district. One statutory notice was issued under the above Acts, and the work was subsequently carried out in default by the Council, and the cost charged to the owner of the property.

Very few properties within the rural district must now be without a mains supply of water where such facilities are available.

Occasionally, the odd property is found to be relying on spring or well water as a source of water for domestic purposes, and in such cases the water is subjected to bacteriological examination, and if reported as unfit for drinking purposes, the owner of the property supplied from the unsatisfactory source is asked to connect to the public main. When persuasion fails, the Council is recommended to take statutory action.

Analysis of Results of Samples.		Fit	Suspect	Unfit
Widdenham, Box		46	3	9
Washwells, Box		9	-	-
Goodshill, Corsham		9	-	-
Nettleton		13	-	-
Biddestone	(Regional)	4	-	-
Grittleton	(")	4	-	-
Stanton St.Quintin	(")	4	-	-
Sutton Benger	(")	4	-	-
East Tytherton, Bremhill	(")	4	-	-
Burton, Nettleton	(West Glos.Water Co.)	4	-	-
Yatesbury, Cherhill	(R.A.F.)	12	-	-
Cherhill	(Blackfords)	4	-	-
Theobalds Green, Calne	(Calne Borough)	4	-	-
Langley Burrell	(Harris's)	8	-	-
		129	3	9

	Fit	Suspect	Unfit
Brought forward:	129	3	9
Eastern Area Water Scheme:			
Hilmarton	12	-	-
Cherhill	12	-	-
Bremhill	4	-	-
Foxham	4	-	-
Heddington	4	-	-
Compton Bassett	4	-	-
Bowden Hill	50	-	-
Fiveways	49	-	-
Yewstock	46	-	-
Private supplies	23	6	12
Totals:	337	9	21

10 Chemical Samples were satisfactory.

AGRICULTURAL (SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE) PROVISIONS ACT, 1956.

It has only been possible to make limited visits to agricultural premises affected by the above Act. Inspections have been confined to the Nursery establishments in the district and adequate sanitary facilities exist at these premises for employees.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER, 1957.

22 premises are registered for the treatment of food waste, all of which have been visited at least once during the year and found to be satisfactory.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

It has not been necessary for any formal action to be taken under the above Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

No licences to keep a pet shop have been issued during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1959.
FACTORIES ACTS, 1937-1948.

With the transfer of the functions relating to "means of escape in case of fire" to the Wiltshire Fire Brigade, I have visited several factories within the rural district with a Fire Prevention Officer, and have passed on to him details of all the Certificate of Means of Escape in Case of Fire, previously issued by the Council.

There are 87 factories on the register, but 18 of these are on Crown land and not controlled by this Council. Four workplaces are registered.

During the year, 35 inspections have been made of registered premises. At one factory in Box it was necessary to require the owner to execute improvements to the sanitary accommodation at the factory. In 1962 I hope to increase the number of visits to factory premises, as frequent visits to premises are necessary to ensure that sanitary facilities provided at factories are maintained in a hygienic condition.

FACTORIES ACT, 1936; SECTION 110.

Outworkers.

The number of outworkers in the rural district has decreased from 45 to 32 during 1961, these being distributed throughout the following parishes:

Box	6	Lacock	2
Corsham	22	Yatton Keynell ...	1
Kington St.Michael	1		

A number of outworkers are engaged on rubber trimming, but this work is not included in the list for notification.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Appended to this report is a detailed schedule of the work undertaken by the Council's Rodent Officer during 1961.

This work was seriously interrupted when the Rodent Officer resigned at the end of June, and his successor was not appointed until the 7th December 1961.

However, during the early part of the year "test baiting" of all public sewers was carried out and the results indicated that except in a small section of the sewers in the Lypiatt Road and Prospect areas of Corsham, the sewers throughout the district were free from rats.

The sewage disposal works at Box, Castle Combe, Colerne, Corsham and Lacock have been visited regularly during the year and except for minor infestations at Box and Corsham, these works have been remarkably free of infestations.

Constant visits have been made to the various refuse tips, which, for most of the year, have been free of infestation.

The tips at Burton, Sutton Benger and Yatesbury all became heavily infested in January, and it took three weeks of constant baiting with various poison baits before these infestations were successfully dealt with.

PARISH.	Private premises inspect-ed.	Treat-ments carried out.	Business premises inspect-ed.	Treat-ments carried out.	Council houses inspect-ed.	Treat-ments carried out.
Biddestone	17	-	2	-	-	-
Box	23	5	14	8	12	-
Bremhill	13	-	2	-	-	-
Calne Without	11	4	6	2	-	-
Castle Combe	20	-	10	-	8	2
Cherhill	12	-	12	2	-	-
Chippenham Without	15	2	10	2	-	-
Christian Malford	16	-	7	-	-	-
Colerne	16	-	9	-	-	-
Compton Bassett	26	5	4	4	-	-
Corsham	98	16	55	13	109	32
Grittleton	21	2	2	-	-	-
Heddington	20	-	2	-	-	-
Hilmarton	20	-	2	2	4	-
Kington Langley	12	2	3	-	-	-
Kington St.Michael	8	-	8	-	-	-
Lacock	37	9	12	4	14	2
Langley Burrell Without	13	-	-	-	-	-
Nettleton	18	3	-	-	-	-
North Wraxall	24	-	4	2	-	-
Pewsham	14	-	-	-	-	-
Stanton St.Quintin	28	4	-	-	-	-
Sutton Benger	28	2	9	4	12	3
Yatton Keynell	19	-	6	-	-	-
	529	54	173	43	159	39

Refuse Tips, etc.

	Inspections	Treatments
Nolands, Yatesbury	11	11
Sutton Benger	15	14
Burton	13	12
Spirthill	7	6
Inwood	40	21
Box Sewer Beds	9	8
Colerne Sewage Works	2	-
Corsham Sewage Works	4	4
Castle Combe Sewage Works	-	-
Paper Salvage Depot	9	9
	110	85

Banks, Hedgerows, Ditches, etc.		Agricultural Properties.	
Inspections	Treatments	Inspections	Treatments
26	13	45	23

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Refuse Tips, etc.

	Inspections	Treatments
Solfonts, Yardsbury	11	11
Sutton Benger	15	14
Burton	17	12
Spirthill	7	6
Tawsed	40	21
Box Sewer Beds	9	8
Colerne Sewage Works	2	-
Corsham Sewage Works	4	4
Castle Combe Sewage Works	-	-
Repair Salvage Depot	9	9
	110	85

Parks, Footpaths, Ditches, etc.

Inspections	Treatments
26	13

Agricultural Properties.

Inspections	Treatments
45	23

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